

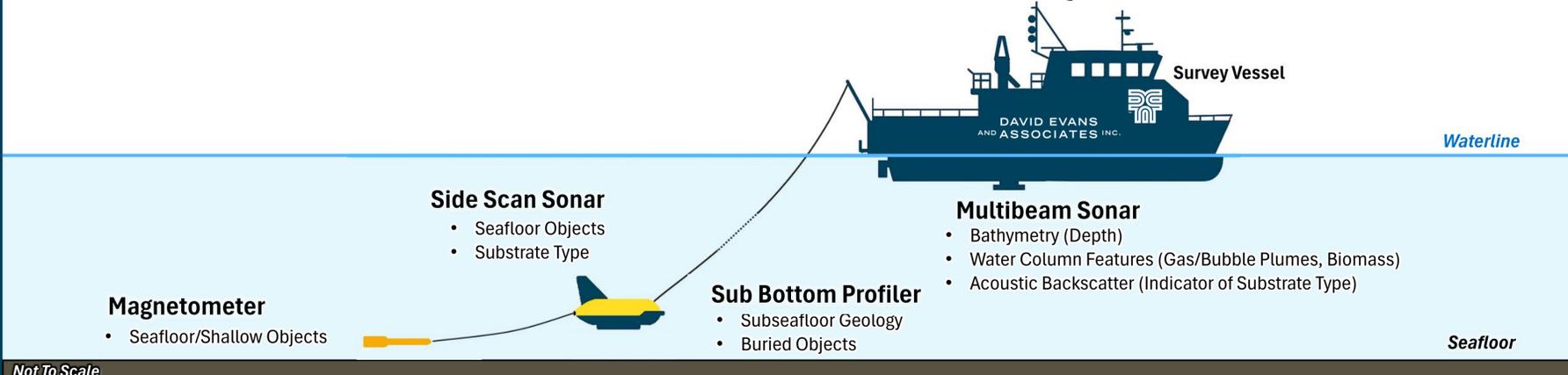
BASELINE ENVIRONMENTAL SURVEYS: STANDARDIZED SITE CHARACTERIZATION TECHNIQUES FOR OFFSHORE AQUACULTURE OPPORTUNITY AREAS

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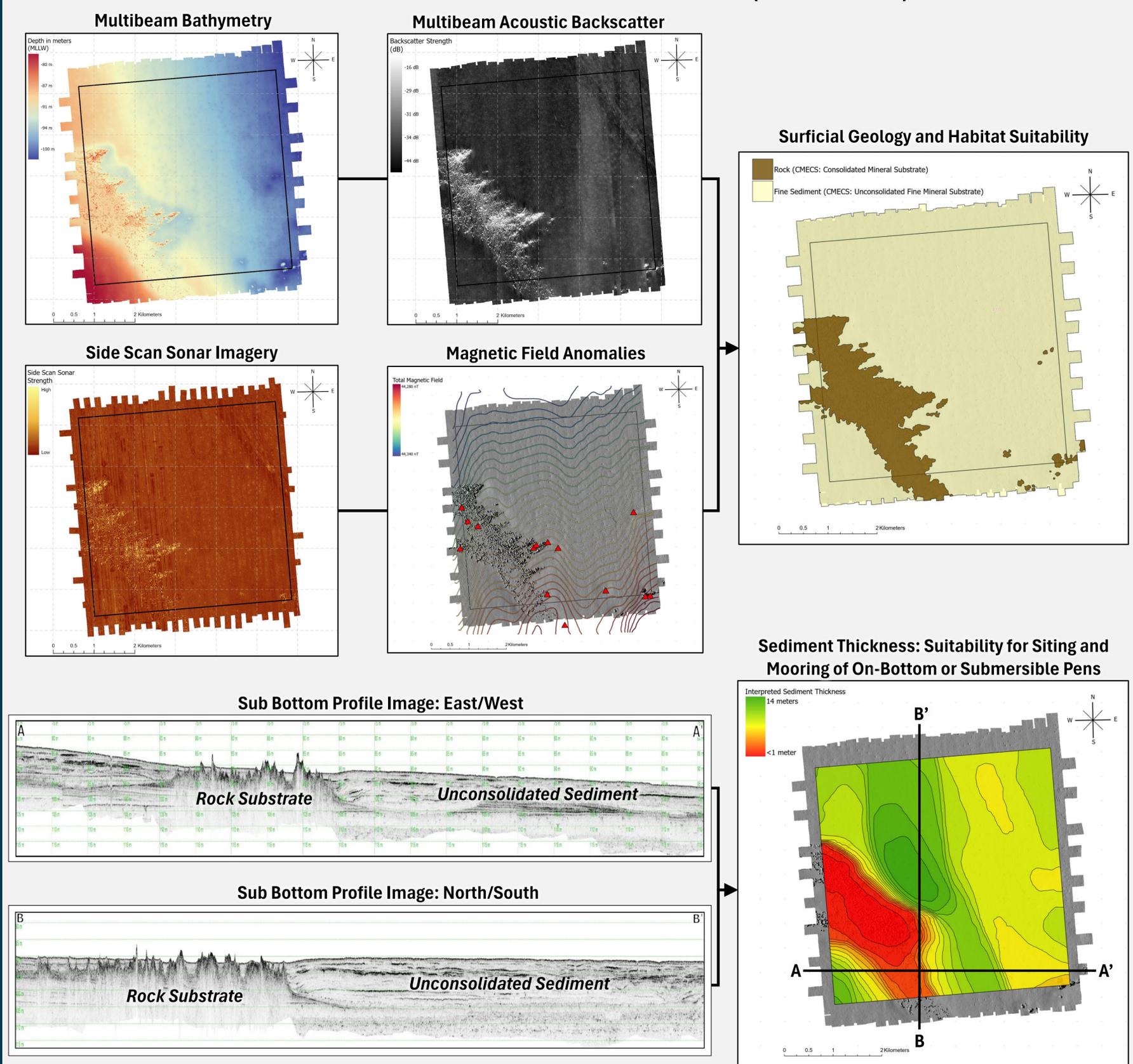
SUMMARY

The development of offshore aquaculture in U.S. federal waters requires careful site selection to balance industry growth with protection of cultural, ecological, and socioeconomic resources. A critical component of this process is the Baseline Environmental Survey (BES), which provides regulators and applicants with high-resolution information on bathymetry, seafloor habitats, archaeological resources, and potential hazards within an area of interest. David Evans and Associates (DEA) has been working at the leading edge of this effort, partnering with aquaculture pioneers and proponents to conduct BES for Aquaculture Opportunity Areas (AOAs) in the Gulf of America. These surveys not only advance aquaculture exploration but also help instill confidence in regulatory agencies and other stakeholders responsible for permitting offshore operations. By applying proven approaches from offshore energy siting and marine exploration, DEA has demonstrated how BES can de-risk project development and provide a transparent, science-based foundation for decision-making. Ultimately, the BES represents a critical step toward enabling sustainable offshore aquaculture in the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone, supplying the robust environmental data necessary for informed siting, environmental stewardship, and responsible industry growth.

BASELINE ENVIRONMENTAL SURVEY TECHNIQUES



RECENT BES RESULTS FROM THE GULF OF AMERICA (GULF AOA W-1)



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